



King County

Mental Health, Chemical Abuse And Dependency Services Division

Department of
Community and Human Services

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King County Community Organizing Program Board Meeting Summary February

Board Members present: Liz Wilhelm, Kitsap County Drug Free Communities, Chair; Mark Howard, City of Seattle Police Department, Co Chair; Helena Stephens, City of Bellevue Youth Programs; and Judy Manchester, Kirkland.

Staff Members Present: Laura Edwards, Program Manager, Laura Quinn, Cheryl Hanson, Community Organizers.

OPENING AND UPDATES

Laura Quinn did the meeting opening. Everyone gave personal and professional updates.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING PROGRAM UPDATE:

At this time during the Legislative Session, the Community Mobilization Program, is facing the possibility of a new location. Since DCTED has changed its name and focus to the State Department of Commerce, there are two bills that put forward where the CM program, along with other community programs, should go. One bill has CM being moved into DSHS and the other keeps CM in Commerce until such time as an analysis can be done to determine the best placement of community based prevention efforts.

As well as the home for CM, the funding is in discussion as well during this very difficult State budget. The Governor had proposed a 60% cut, the House bill reduces that reduction to 30%. Either way CM, the King County Community Organizing Program will have its funding reduced in the future. It is possible that we will maintain our budget level for the 2010-2011 contract year, and then discuss and plan for the reduction in 2012.

Laura gave a report on the Gang Prevention ARRA funds and how they are being used to assist Law Enforcement and communities in dealing with youth and gang violence prevention and early intervention.

The Advisory Board discussed these issues and recommended Laura be instructed to send a letter to Jim Vollendroff, the CD Manager, inviting him to dialogue with the Board regarding what the Division is planning in terms of the budget reductions to both prevention and treatment and how the Board could be a part of this discussion.

It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to ask Laura to draft a letter to Jim inviting him to one of our future meetings or being willing to visit him in his office if more convenient.

Laura will draft a letter and route it for review.

- **ORGANIZER REPORTS:**

Laura Quinn and Cheryl Hanson, Organizers

Cheryl and Laura reported that they have both been following up on the Seattle area mini grants that Stefanie had managed, to check in with these coalitions and to make sure they know who to work with to implement their prevention programming and who to send their invoice to. Many of these groups have worked with the Community Organizing Program in the past and are familiar with the process and the Organizers. This transition has been very smooth.

- **BOARD BUSINESS**

Legislative Updates:

Laura reported on the King County Mental Health Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division (MHCADSD) Legislative Forum. She handed out the Legislative Priorities for the Division that includes funding for Community Mobilization as a Division priority. The Legislative Forum was well attended and the speakers were great.

WASAVP

Liz, the Chair of WASAVP, gave a report on some of the issues that WASAVP (Washington Association of Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention) is monitoring in this State Legislative session. Two of the most important bills:

- Beer and Wine sampling in Stores
- Privatization of Alcohol Sales

Liz also reported on the Federal Safe and Drug Free Communities and Schools funding, which looks like has been zeroed out by the Department of Education. It looks like most of the dollars (that would have support SDFSC) is being shifted to add more DFC (Drug Free Communities) grants and for schools to apply for funding assistance to create "healthier school climate".

Other Items:
There were no general announcements.

Meeting Adjourned:

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 23rd, 2009 at Seattle Red Cross
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
1900 25th Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98144